Shortage of potable water in some districts of West Bengal

2888. SHRI DAWA LAMA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong sub-divisions where there are no facilities of potable filtered drinking water and sanitation, block-wise;

(b) whether Government will agree to frame a Master Plan to provide the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation are State subjects. The State Governments implement the programme under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government only supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP). Powers have been delegated to the States to plan, sanction and implement their individual water supply schemes. As such, sub-division-wise and block-wise information is not maintained at the Central level. Government of West Bengal has already prepared a comprehensive action-plan to provide drinking water to all the rural habitations in the next five years, subject to availability of funds.

Allocation and release of funds for West Bengal

2889. SHRI DAWA LAMA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 749 given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st March, 2000 and state the reasons for huge differences between Central funds allocated and released for rural development schemes during 1999-2000 for West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : The reasons for differences between Central funds allocated and released for the different Rural Development Schemes during 1999-2000 for West Bengal are shown below :

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) : The amount of Central release is less than the Central allocation because a few districts did not lift the Ist and 2nd instalments during the year.

Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) : Second instalment was not released due to (i) non-receipt of Audit Certificate alongwith the audited expenditure figure from 1995-96 to 1997-98 and (ii) Non-utilisation of 60% of total funds available with the State in time during the year.

Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) : Proposals for release of 2nd instalment were not received from 8 districts during 1999-2000.

Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) : Seven districts of the State either did not claim their full Central share by submitting the necessary documents as per JGSY guidelines or the proposals received were defective.

Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) : The proposals were received late from districts and carried over balance was in excess in 7 districts of West Bengal.

Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) : Either proposals were not received or there was audit objection. Audit clearance was not available in the case of 16 Districts.

Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) : The AG Certificate of expenditure since inception of the programme in the State has not been received. Furhter, utilisation of funds in the State has been low.

Employment Assurance Scheme in Madhya Pradesh

†2890. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of blocks from Madhya Pradesh included in the Employment Assurance Scheme by Government;

(b) the details of the said blocks;

(c) whether any action-plan has been formulated by Government for such agricultural labourers in the said block who do not have any source of irrigation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : (a) to (d) Prior to 1-4-1999, Employment Assurance Scheme was demand driven in nature and funds were released taking the block as a unit.